

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 125469

72

ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00

NEA-14 /037 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS JFK:MDK

APPROVED BY S/PRS JOHN F. KING

S/S - MR. LUERS

----- 003630

O 130051Z JUN 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 125469

TOSEC 132

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: MORNING RADIO/TV NEWS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S
PRESS CONFERENCE

1. CBS RADIO - DAN RATHER: THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED.
SALZBURG WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A REST STOP, NOTHING MORE ON
THE WAY TO THE ME. TUESDAY WAS SCHEDULED AS A REST DAY FOR
ALL CONCERNED, BUT KISSINGER WAS SEETHING. NEWS FROM THE
STATE DEPARTMENT BACK IN WASHINGTON WAS THAT STORIES
CONNECTING KISSINGER MORE AND MORE WITH WIRE TAPS OF HIS
OWN SUBORDINATES WHEN HE WAS AT THE WHITE HOUSE WERE
INCREASING. QUESTIONS WERE GETTING TOUGHER, SOME
NEWSPAPERS EVEN RUNNING EDITORIALS. KISSINGER MAINTAINED
IN THE PERIOD 1969 TO 1971 THAT THE WIRE TAPS WERE
NECESSARY, ETHICAL, AND LEGAL FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND HE
MAINTAINS THAT TODAY. WHAT THE NEWS STORIES RAISED WAS THE
QUESTION OF WHETHER KISSINGER ALWAYS HAD TOLD THE TRUTH,
THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS ROLE
IN THE DECISION TO WIRE TAP IN THE BEGINNING. KISSINGER
FUMED PRIVATELY FOR SEVERAL DAYS THAT THE STORIES WERE
UNFAIR, A DEFAMATION OF HIS CHARACTER AS HE PUT IT. THOSE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 125469

WHO WROTE THE STORIES WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING HIS BRILLIANCE

AND HIS SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY MAINTAINED THAT NONETHELESS A SECRETARY OF STATE CAN AND SHOULD BE QUESTIONED ABOUT HIS ACTIONS AND HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEM AND THAT SUCH QUESTIONS CAN BE ASKED WITHOUT ANY INTENTION OF, OR IN FACT

DEFAMING HIS CHARACTER. KISSINGER DIDN'T SEE IT THAT WAY. HE CALLED A NEWS CONFERENCE AND UNLOADED. HE THREATENED TO RESIGN IF THE QUESTIONS DON'T STOP AND HIS NAME ISN'T CLEARED IMMEDIATELY. THE SECRETARY'S MOOD AND TONE THROUGHOUT THE NEWS CONFERENCE WAS EMOTIONAL, FORCEFUL BUT EMOTIONAL. REPORTERS WERE FRANKLY TAKEN ABACK BY IT. FOR ONE THING NO ONE IS ACCUSTOMED TO SEEING DR. KISSINGER ANYTHING EXCEPT CALM, COOL AND COLLECTED. KISSINGER SAID HE HAD NOT INFORMED THE PRESIDENT OF HIS INTENTION TO THREATEN TO RESIGN, SPECIFICALLY ANYWAY SAID KISSINGER. THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT HE, KISSINGER, INTENDED TO HOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE. LATER THE PRESIDENT ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD KISSINGER'S DESIRE "TO DEFEND HIS HONOR", AND THAT IS WHERE MATTERS STOOD AS THE PRESIDENT'S PARTY HEADED FOR EGYPT.

2. CBS RADIO - MARVIN KALB: THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HAS WHAT THE SFRC WANTS, DOCUMENTATION ABOUT KISSINGER'S ROLE IN THE WIRE TAPPING OF EIGHTEEN OFFICIALS AND FOUR NEWSMEN. THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE GOT THE DOCUMENTATION FROM THE COURTS, NOT FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, AND HE CANNOT SHARE THAT INFORMATION. JUSTICE FOR ITS PART HAS REFUSED TO SUPPLY COPIES OF THIS DOCUMENTATION TO THE SFRC. ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBY WILL NOT MOVE UNLESS THE PRESIDENT ORDERS HIM TO. KISSINGER, BY THREATENING TO RESIGN, HAS NOW PUT PRESSURE ON THE PRESIDENT TO PRODUCE THE EVIDENCE THAT KISSINGER BELIEVES WILL CLEAR HIS NAME. IF THE PRESIDENT REFUSES THEN KISSINGER WILL PROBABLY RESIGN AND HIS RESIGNATION COULD THEN BE USED TO ACCELERATE THE IMPEACHMENT DRIVE AGAINST NIXON. SO, IN A STRANGE WAY THE PRESIDENT CONTROLS THE KEY TO KISSINGER'S HONOR AND KISSINGER THE KEY TO THE PRESIDENT'S SURVIVAL.

NOTE: THIS MORNING CBS REPLAYED TAPES OF REPORTS OF BOTH MARVIN AND BERNARD KALB ON THE AIR YESTERDAY AFTERNOON
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 125469

AND EVENING.

3. CBS TV -- MARVIN KALB: AMONG OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATS WHO KNOW HIM WELL KISSINGER'S THREAT OF RESIGNATION IS TAKEN QUITE SERIOUSLY. THE SECRETARY THEY KNOW HAS ONE BIBLE, WHAT HE CALLS HIS MORAL AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. IF THAT AUTHORITY IS DIMINISHED HE BELIEVES THAT THE AUTHORITY OF THE US IS ALSO

DIMINISHED. OTHERS MAY DISAGREE, CONSIDER THAT ARROGANCE, BUT THAT IS KISSINGER'S BELIEF AND IT IS SHARED BY MANY PEOPLE WHO NOW CONSIDER THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO BE NOT ONLY A SYMBOL BUT ALSO THE SPOKESMAN FOR AMERICAN POLICY ABROAD. BY RESPONDING EMOTIONALLY TO THE WIRE TAP ISSUE TWICE IN ONE WEEK HE HAS TURNED A PERSONAL EMBARRASSMENT

INTO A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CRISIS. HIS RESIGNATION WOULD HAVE A MAJOR EFFECT ON THE PRESIDENT'S CHANCES OF SURVIVING WATERGATE AND IT WOULD CREATE UNCERTAINTY AND DOUBT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ABOUT THE DURABILITY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. KISSINGER'S BOMBSHELL MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO FORCE THE SFRC TO GIVE HIM A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH AND TO GIVE IT TO HIM QUICKLY. THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO IT SEEMS, BUT FIRST IT WANTS WIRE TAP DOCUMENTATION NOW UNDER EXCLUSIVE CONTROL OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. THIS DOCUMENTATION CANNOT GO TO THE SENATE UNLESS ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE GIVES HIS PERMISSION. SAXBY WON'T MOVE UNLESS THE PRESIDENT ORDERS HIM TO. KISSINGER'S RESIGNATION THREAT MAY FORCE THE PRESIDENT TO ORDER SAXBY TO GIVE THE SENATE FRC NOW WHAT IT WANTS -- DOCUMENTATION ON THOSE WIRE TAPS. ONLY THEN WILL IT BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE KISSINGER WHAT HE WANTS: NAMELY A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH. SO IT APPEARS THAT THE SECRETARY HAS GAMBLERD IN A VERY SERIOUS WAY, AS BOTH HE AND THE PRESIDENT PLUNGE INTO THE ME. SUDDENLY THAT AREA IS NO LONGER THE FOCUS OF POPULAR ATTENTION WHICH IS WHAT MR. NIXON WANTED BUT MERELY THE BACKDROP FOR THE SECRETARY'S PUBLIC AGONIZING ABOUT WIRE TAPS.

4. NBC TV - GARRICK UTLEY - TODAY SHOW FROM CAIRO:
FOR DR. KISSINGER AS FOR THE PRESIDENT SALZBURG WAS
SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN JUST A REST STOP, BUT KISSINGER
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 125469

SUDDENLY CALLED A NEWS CONFERENCE, ANNOUNCING THAT HE COULD NOT STAY IN OFFICE IF HIS HONOR CONTINUES TO BE ATTACKED. (KISSINGER ON FOR FORTY SECONDS - SPOKE ON DIVISION IN COUNTRY AND HIS RELATIONSHIP) KISSINGER'S THREAT TO RESIGN IS ESPECIALLY POTENT NOW AT THE START OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO THE ME. ONE THING ARABS AND ISRAELIS AGREE ON IS THE INDISPENSABLE ROLE PLAYED BY KISSINGER IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. THE POSSIBILITY THAT KISSINGER MIGHT QUIT, REMOTE AS THAT IS, IS AT LEAST ENOUGH TO SEND A COLLECTIVE SHUDDER THROUGHOUT THE ME, A SHUDDER KISSINGER HOPES WILL BE SHARED AND FELT BY HIS CRITICS IN WASHINGTON. SISCO

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE125469
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740152-0410
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740648/aaaabotb.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <04 SEP 2002 by PhilliR0, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <15 JAN 2003 by shawdg>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING RADIO/TV NEWS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005